IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 6, 12 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 2 to 5, 7, 9 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 and 20 to 22 and add new Claims 23 to 26 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus ~~according to Claim 1,~~ comprising:

an information reading unit adapted to read information from a portable storage medium;

an information writing unit adapted to write information into the portable storage medium;

a storage unit adapted to store the information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit; and

a control unit adapted to control said information reading unit and said information writing unit,

wherein~~, when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said control unit is adapted to control said information reading unit to read ~~the~~ predetermined information from the portable storage medium ~~and~~, to store the read predetermined information in said storage unit, and to preclude from reading the

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predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area,

and wherein said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write the predetermined information stored in said storage unit into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area.

3.　(Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to delete the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area.

4.　(Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write reading-preclusive information ~~for precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium~~ into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area, the reading-preclusive information for precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

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5.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 4, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area,~~ said control unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to ~~be able to read the predetermined information~~ delete the reading-preclusive information from the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus ~~according to Claim 1, further~~ comprising:

an information reading unit adapted to read information from a portable storage medium;

an information writing unit adapted to write information into the portable storage medium;

a storage unit adapted to store the information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit; and

a control unit adapted to control said information reading unit and said information writing unit,

an administration unit adapted to administrate specific information, stored in the portable storage medium, for specifying the portable storage medium;

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a judgment unit adapted to judge whether or not the specific information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit,

wherein, ~~when it is judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit,~~ said control unit is adapted to <u>control said information reading unit to</u> preclude from reading ~~the~~ predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium <u>in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area and it is judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administered by said administration unit</u>.

8.　(Original)　An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a warning unit adapted to give warning when it is judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium does not match with the specific information administrated by said administration unit.

9.　(Currently Amended)　An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area and it is further judged by said judgment unit that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated by said administration unit,~~ said control unit is adapted to

control said information ~~writing~~ reading unit to be able to read the predetermined

information from the portable storage medium <u>in a case where the portable storage medium</u>

<u>is moved out of the predetermined area and it is further judged by said judgement unit that</u>

<u>the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific</u>

<u>information administered by said administration unit</u>.

        10.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus

according to Claim [[7]] <u>2</u>, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable~~

~~storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage~~

~~medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said control unit is adapted <u>control said</u>

<u>information reading unit</u> to preclude from reading the predetermined information stored in

the portable storage medium and designated to be secret, ~~and to control said information~~

~~writing unit to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does~~

~~not exist in the predetermined area~~ <u>in a case where the portable storage medium is moved</u>

<u>out of the predetermined area</u>.

        11.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus

according to Claim [[1]] <u>2</u>, wherein

        the portable storage medium is a storage medium to which communication

is possible in non-contact manner,

        said information reading unit is adapted to write the information into the

portable storage medium in non-contact manner, and

said information writing unit is adapted to read the information from the portable storage medium in non-contact manner.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method, ~~according to Claim 12, further~~ comprising:

an information reading step of reading information from a portable storage medium;

and information writing step of writing information into the portable storage medium; and

a storage step of, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ reading ~~the~~ predetermined information from the portable storage medium and storing the read predetermined information in another storage medium different from the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of a predetermined area,

wherein said information reading step precludes from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area, and

said information writing step writes the predetermined information stored in the storage medium into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area.

14. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said information writing step ~~is adapted to delete~~ deletes the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim [[12]] 13, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said information writing step ~~is adapted to write~~ writes reading-preclusive information ~~for precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium~~ into the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area, the reading-preclusive information for precluding from reading the predetermined information from the portable storage medium.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim [[12]] 15, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area,~~ said information writing step ~~is adapted to be able to read~~ reads the predetermined information from the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved into the predetermined area.

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method ~~according to Claim 12, further~~ comprising:

an information reading step of reading information from a portable storage medium;

an information writing step of writing information into the portable storage medium; and

a judgment step of judging whether or not specific information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step matches with specific information administrated in another storage medium,

wherein, ~~when it is judged in said judgment step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium,~~ said information ~~writing~~ reading step ~~is adapted to preclude~~ precludes from reading ~~the~~ predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area and it is judged in said judgement step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium.

19.   (Original) An information processing method according to Claim 18, further comprising a warning step of giving warning when it is judged in said judgment

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step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium does not match with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 18, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area and it is further judged in said judgment step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium,~~ said information ~~writing~~ reading step ~~is adapted to be able to read~~ reads the predetermined information from the portable storage medium in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area and it is further judged in said judgement step that the specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the specific information administrated in the another storage medium.

21. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim [[18]] 13, wherein, ~~when the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,~~ said information ~~writing~~ reading step precludes ~~is adapted to preclude~~ from reading the predetermined information stored in the portable storage medium and designated to be secret, ~~and to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area~~ in a case where the portable storage medium is moved out of the predetermined area.

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22.	(Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim [[12]] 13, wherein

the portable storage medium is a storage medium to which communication is possible in non-contact manner,

said information reading step is adapted to write the information into the portable storage medium in non-contact manner, and

said information writing step is adapted to read the information from the portable storage medium in non-contact manner.

23.	(New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein

said information reading unit is adapted to read specific information, stored in the portable storage medium, for specifying the portable storage medium,

said storage unit is adapted to store the predetermined information with first specific information read by said information reading unit, and

said information writing unit is adapted to write the predetermined information corresponding to the first specific information into the portable storage medium in a case where second specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the first specific information stored in said storage unit.

24.	(New) An information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information reading step reads specific information, stored in the portable storage medium, for specifying the portable storage medium,

said storage step stores the predetermined information with first specific information read in said information reading step, and

said information writing step writes the predetermined information corresponding to the first specific information in a case where second specific information read from the portable storage medium matches with the first specific information stored in said another storage medium.

25. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein

said information writing unit is adapted to write area information indicating whether or not the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,

said controlling unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area in a case where area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, and

said controlling unit is adapted to control said information writing unit to write the predetermined information stored in the storage unit into the portable storage medium in a case where the area information read from the portable storage medium by said information reading unit indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area.

26. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 13, wherein

said information writing step writes area information indicating whether or not the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area,

said information writing step writes the area information indicating that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area in a case where area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium exists in the predetermined area, and

said information writing step writes the predetermined information stored in the storage unit into the portable storage medium in a case where the area information read from the portable storage medium in said information reading step indicates that the portable storage medium does not exist in the predetermined area.